

~~One of the challenges for the Queensland government is to ensure that we continue to meet the changing needs of the community. The Newman government is always seeking to revitalise front-line services and is unapologetic in focusing on great outcomes for customers. Customer service is a main part of this government and is one of the ways that we continue to make Queensland a great state with great opportunities.~~

Cocoa Pod Borer, Eradication

~~**Mr YOUNG:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Can the minister update the House on how the Queensland government has worked to eradicate the cocoa pod borer from Far North Queensland?~~

~~**Dr McVEIGH:** I thank the member for the question because this story is truly a great news story not just for North Queensland but for farm industries state-wide. It is a great news story that proves that the Newman government's front-line staff—in this case, Biosecurity staff—are well and truly up to the job. As a result of the efforts of Biosecurity staff, cocoa pod borers have been successfully eradicated from Far North Queensland following a two-year eradication program. Members may well ask, 'What is a cocoa pod borer?' Cocoa pod borers, I am pleased to inform the House, destroy cocoa beans, and why is that important? Cocoa beans are the main ingredient for chocolate.~~

~~**A government member:** Cocoa pops.~~

~~**Dr McVEIGH:** Cocoa pops included. This of course causes yield losses of up to 90 per cent. In rambutan—another emerging tropical fruit crop from Far North Queensland that my good friend and colleague the member for Hinchinbrook is so keen on—we find that the cocoa pod borer bores into leaves, stems and occasionally the fruit making it unmarketable. The pest is widespread throughout South-East Asia and the Pacific, and experience shows it can be very, very difficult to control or eradicate once established. Australia is the only country to have eradicated cocoa pod borer through a national eradication program. It was detected in our case in a plantation near Cairns and it has since been subject to that national, cost-shared eradication program that I referred to. Removing pests such as the cocoa pod borer will assist us greatly in achieving our goal of doubling agricultural production by 2040.~~

~~Unlike the previous Labor government, the LNP government takes biosecurity threats to our agricultural industries very, very seriously. One could be mistaken for thinking that the former minister must have been asleep at the wheel. Cocoa pod and rambutan are emerging industries, and this pest would likely limit any expansion if it were to become established here in Queensland. Eradication was achieved by disrupting the life cycle of the pest through the removal of cocoa pods, the use of insecticides, ongoing surveillance and trapping, and wider surveys of other cocoa and rambutan plantations in the region. I most sincerely thank the local growers who participated in the program and helped us to eradicate the pest. The success of this program is a timely reminder that growers still need to remain vigilant and regularly check for this pest by splitting open the pods and looking for signs of damage. If producers see any unusual signs, please report them immediately to Biosecurity Queensland.~~

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~~**Madam SPEAKER:** The time for questions has finished.~~


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

~~**Madam SPEAKER:** Before I call the Clerk to read the next order of the day, I acknowledge the schools visiting today: Good News Lutheran School from the electorate of Mount Ommaney, Keebra Park State High School from the electorate of Southport and Mudgeeraba State School from the electorate of Mudgeeraba.~~

CRIME AND MISCONDUCT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.33 pm): I <present a bill for an act to amend the >Crime and Misconduct Act 2001, the Public Service Act 2008 and the Public Service Regulation 2008 for particular purposes, and to make minor and consequential

amendments to the legislation mentioned in schedule 2. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. In 2013 two significant landmark reports regarding the Crime and Misconduct Commission, the CMC, were released—the report of the review by the Independent Advisory Panel, constituted by the Hon. Ian Callinan AC and Professor Nicholas Aroney, of the Crime and Misconduct Act 2001 and related matters, and the report of the inquiry by the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee into the CMC's release and destruction of Fitzgerald Commission of Inquiry documents. On 3 July 2013 the government tabled its response to the recommendations in both reports. The government response indicated that an implementation panel—comprising the Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General as panel chair, the Director-General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Commission Chief Executive of the Public Service Commission and the Acting Chairperson of the Crime and Misconduct Commission—had been established to oversee and direct the consideration and implementation of the accepted recommendations in the government response.

This bill is the product of much of the panel's work and seeks to implement government accepted recommendations to the Callinan-Aroney and Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee reports. The bill when enacted will, together with administrative changes at the Crime and Misconduct Commission and across the public service, lead to improvements in:

- public confidence in the CMC;
- timeliness of the investigation of complaints;
- operational and corporate governance structures within the CMC;
- the current culture within the CMC;
- CMC internal complaints management systems for misconduct matters;
- internal processes and practices in the CMC; and
- the management of personal conduct and work performance of Queensland public service employees.

The bill's policy objectives include:

- reforming the upper governance structure of the CMC;
- changing the definition of 'official misconduct'—which the bill renames as 'corrupt conduct'—which, with other amendments, will raise the threshold for matters within the CMC's jurisdiction;
- renaming the CMC's 'misconduct function' to 'corruption function', with consequential amendments;
- improving the CMC's complaints management system to refocus the CMC's corruption activities on more serious cases of corruption and reduce the number of complaints the CMC deals with and investigates;
- removing the CMC's responsibility for the 'prevention' of corruption in units of public administration;
- ensuring the CMC's research function is more focussed and relevant to its functions;
- strengthening the transparency and accountability of the CMC;
- clarifying the disciplinary action that may be taken by the CMC in relation to conduct of CMC officers;
- making transitional arrangements to continue the current acting chairperson's appointment and certain other appointments, and providing transitional arrangements for the ending of other appointments;
- implementing recent recommendations of public reports about the CMC's investigation of alleged official misconduct at the University of Queensland; and
- improving the management of personal conduct and work performance of Queensland public service employees.

The bill renames the CMC as the Crime and Corruption Commission. This is consistent with its realignment to focus on corruption and corrupt conduct. The structure of the commission has been

the subject of much consideration and debate. That consideration and debate has obviously had significant regard to the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee's recommendation No. 19 that the Crime and Misconduct Act be amended to cause structural separation of the chairperson and chief executive officer and the circumstances leading up to the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee inquiry and report last year.

We have also examined the various governance structures for similar bodies around Australia, each with their own particular nuances and variations. The government welcomes suggestions and comments about the upper governance structure as reflected in the bill—by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee when it considers the bill, by individuals and organisations who no doubt will make submissions to the parliamentary committee, and by commentators generally. In addition, and because the government is genuinely committed to making sure the upper governance structure works, the bill inserts a new provision which allows the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee to conduct periodic reviews of the structure of the commission.

Under the bill the commission will consist of Governor in Council appointed commissioners who are: a full-time legally qualified chairman, a legally qualified part-time deputy chairman, two part-time (ordinary) commissioners and a full-time chief executive officer. Although the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee is to be consulted about commissioner appointments, the bill removes the current requirement for the PCMC's bipartisan support for these appointments. The commissioners, as the commission, will provide strategic direction and leadership for the performance of the commission's functions and the exercise of the commission's powers by the chairman, chief executive officer and commission staff.

The chairman is responsible for the proper performance of the functions and exercise of the powers delegated to the chairman under the act. The chairman is to report to the commission on the performance of the commission's functions but is not bound by any direction of the commission in the performance of functions or exercise of powers in an investigation, hearing, operation or other proceeding.

011 The CEO is pivotal to the effective management of the commission. The CEO is responsible to the commission for the administration of the commission; and is to perform the functions and exercise the powers delegated to, or conferred on, the CEO under the act or specifically delegated to the CEO by the chairman. The CEO will be responsible for matters such as the employment, management and discipline of commission staff, the management of the commission's documents, including the Fitzgerald Commission of Inquiry documents, and the preparation and compliance with the commission's budget. The CEO is subject to the chairman's direction in respect of functions or a power delegated to the CEO by the chairman and is otherwise subject to the commission's direction in respect of performing a function or exercising a power under the act.

As I indicated earlier, the government genuinely welcomes suggestions and comments on the commission's upper governance structure, as reflected during the consideration of the bill by the committee. We have looked at other jurisdictions, and all jurisdictions in Australia, when we are dealing with corruption watchdogs, deal with these governance structures differently. The Callinan and Aroney report found that the definition of 'official misconduct' has a wider application when compared with the definitions contained in other interstate anticorruption legislation; and that the threshold for what constitutes official misconduct should be narrowed. To address this, the bill changes the definition of 'official misconduct' to a new concept of 'corrupt conduct' that is intended, with other amendments, to raise the threshold for conduct that is subject to the CMC's jurisdiction.

The new definition also includes a list of types of offences or behaviours which are not conclusive of corrupt conduct, but could be corrupt conduct if the preconditions in the definition are met. To understand the full extent of the changes effected by the new definition of 'corrupt conduct', new sections 14 and 15 being inserted by the bill must be considered with other amendments to reduce the number of matters referred to, and investigated by, the CMC. These include amendments: raising the threshold of when public officials are to notify the Crime and Corruption Commission of suspected corrupt conduct from 'suspicion' to 'reasonable suspicion'; expanding the use of the section 40 directions issued by the CCC to agencies to ensure only the more serious corrupt conduct matters are referred to the CCC—as is currently the case, these directions will be developed in consultation with agencies and the Public Service Commission—requiring complaints to be in the form of a statutory declaration unless the commission decides that exceptional circumstances exist which warrant a waiver of this requirement; requiring the CCC to investigate only the more serious cases of corrupt conduct; making it easier for the CCC to dismiss or take no action on a complaint; and removing barriers that hinder prosecuting complainants of non-genuine complaints.

The government's goal is for Queensland's Public Service to be the most responsive and respected public service in the nation. To achieve better outcomes for Queenslanders, it is important that Public Service managers are empowered and that staff under their management or supervision have a clear understanding of the Public Service work performance and personal conduct principles. These longstanding principles recognise that Public Service employment involves public trust. They state that Public Service employment must be directed towards matters such as achieving excellence in service delivery; ensuring the effective, efficient and appropriate use of public resources; and carrying out duties impartially and with integrity. Both the Callinan and Aroney report and the Commission of Audit recommended reforms to refocus responsibility for conduct in public sector agencies to line managers and, ultimately, CEOs to be dealt with promptly.

The bill amends section 26 of the Public Service Act 2008 to make it clear that Public Service managers must take all reasonable steps to ensure each Public Service employee under their management is aware of these important work performance and personal conduct principles. In line with the accepted recommendations, the Public Service Commission has also developed a new conduct management model for the Queensland Public Service, the Conduct and Performance Excellence—CaPE—Service. CaPE's purpose is to promote and support excellence in the management of personal conduct and work performance in the Queensland public sector. It will: provide specialist advice and support to agencies, upon request, on the management of conduct and performance; set, and strategically monitor, benchmarks and standards for agencies' handling of these matters; and review individual cases as required, with the aim of building capability. The CaPE Service closely aligns to the Public Service Commission's main statutory functions which include: enhancing the Public Service's human resource management and capability; enhancing and promoting an ethical culture and ethical decision making across the Public Service; and enhancing the Public Service's leadership and management capabilities in relation to disciplinary matters. CaPE will contribute to the development of capability within agencies to ensure they have a high standard of human resource and managerial skill. It will also work closely with the Crime and Corruption Commission to ensure matters are addressed effectively within the appropriate jurisdiction.

The bill also includes amendments to promote accountability and transparency of the commission's decision making and activities by: requiring parliamentary committee meetings with the CCC to be generally held in public, with appropriate exceptions where the parliamentary committee considers the nature of the information being discussed needs protection or may jeopardise ongoing investigations; and enlarging the powers of the Parliamentary Commissioner by allowing him or her to investigate complaints on his or her own initiative; removing the requirement for the bipartisan approval by the parliamentary committee for the Parliamentary Commissioner to hold hearings; and allowing reports of the Parliamentary Commissioner to be used by the CCC in disciplinary matters.

The bill also addresses unrelated amendments arising from the CMC's investigation into allegations of official misconduct at the University of Queensland. Section 38 of the Crime and Misconduct Act currently obliges a public official, that is the head of a unit of public administration, to notify the CMC about official misconduct. The bill includes an amendment that requires agencies to develop a policy that sets out how the agency will manage a complaint that involves a public official of that agency and that such policy is to be developed in consultation with the CCC. This is in response to issues raised by the CMC in their September 2013 report, *An examination of suspected official misconduct at the University of Queensland*. The bill also includes an amendment to section 58 of the Crime and Misconduct Act to allow the CCC to investigate a decision-making body of an agency when a judicial officer is a member of that decision-making body. This amendment is in response to issues raised by the parliamentary committee in their September 2013 Report No. 92: *Complaint about the CMC investigation into the University of Queensland* about the abovementioned CMC investigation into the University of Queensland.

The bill refocuses responsibility of conduct in public sector agencies to line managers and, ultimately, CEOs; and, most importantly, paves the way for the Crime and Corruption Commission to focus on major crime and serious corruption; and to become a highly efficient and effective major crime-fighting and serious corrupt conduct investigating organisation for the 21st century. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.46 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.47 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 30 April 2014.

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.48 pm): <The opposition >will be opposing this urgency motion because, once again, a bill is being referred to a committee for a period of around one month. What we have heard today put forward by this Attorney-General in relation to the changes to the CMC is just over one month to examine the bill when most other bills are referred to a committee for a longer period of time. We need experts to look at this bill in detail. The question for Queenslanders today is: do you trust this Attorney-General? Let me answer that question. No, they do not, because everything this Attorney-General touches turns into an unmitigated disaster.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has deliberately misled the House. I will be writing to Madam Speaker to put this matter before her regarding the correct timing, which is clearly from 19 March to 30 April.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. Could you resume your seat please? I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have just over one month to examine this bill in detail. I will correct the record: just over one month.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You said it so quickly. You will not listen! Mr Deputy Speaker, we have just over one month and I imagine that the Easter school holidays are during this period as well. Just one month! They just want to rush through these major changes, once again abusing the committee system that has been set up in this House.

But should we be surprised by this urgency motion today? Absolutely not. Of course we are not! We understand exactly what this government wants to do: they want to nobble the CMC. They want to weaken the CMC—

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Leader of the Opposition, could you resume your seat, please. Attorney-General what is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, my point of order is that the opposition leader is debating the bill which we have just introduced to the House and is not debating the time line of 30 April 2014.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Leader of the Opposition, the motion relates to the reporting date for the committee in their review of the bill. I would ask that you refer strictly to that motion in your comments today.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. Once again we are seeing this government rush through perhaps the most substantial changes to the Crime and Misconduct Commission that the state has ever seen here in Queensland. This is something that cannot be rushed. This is something that needs due consideration. There are drastic changes contained in this bill, and this is a bill not one or two pages, or five or six pages, or 20 or 30 pages. No, this bill is over 170 pages of complex law and complex changes to the CMC!

We know the Liberal National Party has never liked the CMC in this state. We know the matters that have gone to the CMC over the recent two years. I am not going to go into those details today.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Leader of the Opposition, could you keep your comments to the motion, please.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will stick to the urgency matter before the House. We need due consideration. What does that mean? It means time so that different people and organisations such as the Law Society and the Bar Association can come along to have their say and put forward their points of view, and perhaps we can canvass with the broader community what they think about the proposals put forward by this Attorney-General.

This government does not like to use the committee system to give due consideration to examination of bills in this House. Just over one month to consider some of the most complex changes that we have ever seen in this state is not enough consideration. There is time here, and they have been sitting on these reports for a number of months now. If the government want to get this right, they need to give the committee due time to process it.

I would also like to know if the PCMC has been consulted in relation to these particular bills and the proposals that are going forward. The Attorney-General has just said that there are going to be changes which mean that there is not going to be bipartisan support for the appointment of commissioners. He said that in his speech very clearly—

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Leader of the Opposition, could you resume your seat, please. The Leader of the House has the call.

Mr STEVENS: The Leader of the Opposition is deliberately debating the motion currently without—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Leader of the House, please resume your seat. I was just about to mention to the Leader of the Opposition: could you please restrict your comments to the motion before the House relating to the time frame for the reporting of the committee.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sure, Mr Deputy Speaker. Just over one month is not enough time to consider this legislation. It is not enough time, and the opposition will be opposing this urgency motion. I urge other members of this House to give due consideration to this fact as well. You cannot make a comprehensive overhaul of the public independent crime watchdog without giving it due consideration.

We knew something was up this morning when the Attorney-General released his plans to the *Courier-Mail*, as he likes to do, stating that there was going to be this massive overhaul in just over one month. We need to know exactly how many times the committee will be meeting. We need to get a process in place, because there is not enough time for Queenslanders right across the state to give this matter due consideration.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the only question that Queenslanders need to ask themselves is do they trust this incompetent Attorney-General who rushes bills through the House and who will not let the committee have enough time to decide? That is the sole question that Queenslanders have. Mr Deputy Speaker, I can answer that question and that answer is clearly: no, they do not.

Today we will be opposing this bill lock, stock and barrel going to the committee system as a matter of urgency. We will be opposing the motion because you are not giving enough time to Queenslanders and this House. You are treating this place, this House, like your own personal plaything—


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order!! Leader of the Opposition, I have asked you twice to keep your comments to the motion—

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order!—and continue to be relevant.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Premier said he was going to listen, and if they were going to listen to what the Premier said they would give Queenslanders time to consult about these important changes.

We will be opposing the urgency. There is no need whatsoever for this urgency. You cannot trust anything this government does. They have a secret hidden agenda, and we know what it is: it is to weaken the CMC in this state! You have had form on it over the years. You cannot wait to do it and we are going to oppose the urgency motion!

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.57 pm): <Mr Deputy Speaker, we have just heard >the most irrational rant from the Leader of the Opposition based on totally incorrect and deliberately


false information. I would point out to the Leader of the Opposition that today is 19 March. If she looks up there at the little screen, it says '19 March'.

Thirty days hath September, April, June and November. All the rest have 31...

There are 12 days left in March and we have 30 days in April. That makes 42 days. If we divide 42 by seven, you get six weeks. You jump up and you say 'four weeks' deliberately to give effect to your ridiculous objection, which is based on just trying to scare the community about the changes to the CMC that have been mooted for ages. The Attorney-General has stood in this House and said that they are coming.

The legal affairs committee, under the great generalship of Mr Ian Barry, the member for Ipswich, is not crying about the time that it has to deal with this matter. There are no urgency issues with this bill, as you claim again. Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker: if it was urgent, the bill would be through this week.

013 This is not an urgent bill. It is a bill that will be well considered by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. Everyone will have an opportunity to have input to that committee, as they should. Opposition members and non-government members who are on that committee will have every opportunity to have input into this very important bill for Queensland. It is an absolute furphy—an absolute red herring—to say that six weeks is not enough. It might be a hurried time for the Labor Party, but for normal people and those who are not Sleepy, Dopey and Grumpy it would be plenty of time for them to deal with this bill. The legal affairs committee has six weeks to deal with this bill and this is a motion that should be agreed to by this House.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (4.00 pm): < I rise to support the opposition leader's position in relation to the motion before the House. In relation to the motion before the House, nothing could crystallise the arrogance and the absolute drunken state that the Newman government is in over its massive majority. Nothing could demonstrate more clearly to Queenslanders that this is a government that is drunk on power and completely and utterly arrogant, not caring—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Members, order! I ask the member for South Brisbane to stick to the motion.


Ms TRAD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am speaking to the motion. I am speaking to the referral of this amendment bill to the legal affairs committee and I am speaking to the fact that this committee is being given a little over a month in which to consider these complex changes. If we think about how long the Fitzgerald inquiry took, it took a number of years. It took a number of years and it came to a number of recommendations to set up an integrity and corruption watchdog in Queensland that would serve this state well. And what happened? It has served this state well and the raft of changes that this government is putting to Queenslanders is quite significant. It will change the way in which the CMC functions. It will change—

Government members interjected.

Ms TRAD: I know those opposite do not like to hear about the CMC, but Queenslanders want to hear about the CMC. They want to know how the CMC is going to be administered—

Madam SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, I asked you to stick to the motion that is before the House. This is not about debating the issues which potentially are in this legislation.

Ms TRAD: Madam Speaker, I understand that, but Queenslanders will want to have a say on this bill, and the allotted time that this arrogant government has given to the parliamentary committee to conduct significant public consultation over this bill is woefully inadequate. It is woefully inadequate. These are significant law changes, as the Leader of the Opposition has outlined, and a number of organisations need time—legal organisations, local government organisations, general members of the public—in which to consider this bill. I contend that the amount of time that this government has given the committee in which to investigate and inquire and seek public consultation around the bill is inadequate and it fundamentally reflects the fact that this is a government that is completely and utterly drunk on its own power and it is incapable of acting in any way other than sheer arrogance.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.03 pm <): I rise to oppose the urgency motion being put in >the parliament today—

Government members interjected.

Mrs MILLER:—to oppose the motion today. I basically just wanted to echo the issues that have already been raised this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition and my colleague the member for South Brisbane. What we have here before this parliament is a bill that is 173 pages long. What we also have here is a situation where this government—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mrs MILLER: I take that interjection from—

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, just pause. I remind members that there is a motion before the House and that if this starts to get repetitious in respect of the issues that are being canvassed you are not doing the House any favours. The opportunity is to debate the actual motion before the House. I call the member for Bundamba.

Mrs MILLER: Thank you very much for your guidance, Madam Speaker. I took the interjection from the member opposite, the Leader of the House, where he said—very sarcastically—that I must be a slow reader. He said that he could read a whole bill overnight. That is what he said. The point is that the people of Queensland need to be able to be given the opportunity to be able to understand the bill. They need to be given the opportunity to provide submissions to any committee. The point about all of this, as the member for South Brisbane has pointed out, is that the Fitzgerald inquiry, as I understand it, started in 1987 and it took two years for Fitzgerald to come up with his report. This government is trying to institutionalise corruption in this state in spite of what it may have in this bill.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, you have been given—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members! There is a motion before the House with regard to the reporting time frame of a bill.


Mrs MILLER: That is right.

Madam SPEAKER: And you are straying from the motion. If you want to debate the legislation, the opportunity will be in the debate on the legislation. I remind you of the motion that is before the House or else I will take the call from the next person who wishes to speak.

Mrs MILLER: Madam Speaker, there is simply not enough time between now and 30 April for all of the citizens in Queensland and all of the particular groups—not only the legal firms in Queensland but also local government, all of the departments, every particular public administration entity which is a unit of public administration, the academics, the universities—to be able to respond to this particular amendment bill within that period of time. In conclusion—Madam Speaker, I am trying to be quick—it is my view that Mike Ahern, who stood in this parliament and stood outside this parliament and said that the Fitzgerald inquiry recommendations would be implemented lock, stock and barrel, would be ashamed of you—ashamed of each and every one of you!

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order. This is not relevant to the motion.

Madam SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister for Education. Member, I did provide you with the opportunity to address the motion and I asked you to stick to the motion. I will now call the Minister for Energy and Water Supply.

 **Hon. MF McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (4.07 pm): I move—

That the question be now put.

Ms Trad: Arrogance!

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr McARDLE: Reality.

Opposition members: Arrogance!

Mr McARDLE: Reality.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mrs Miller interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: I warn members on my left under 253A. Member for Bundamba, I was talking. I have a point of order that has been raised by the Minister for Energy and Water Supply with regard to putting the motion. Under the standing orders it is the chair—the Speaker's—prerogative to

decide whether there has been sufficient debate. I had indicated to the member for Gladstone that I would take her call. I intend to take her call and then we will consider such a motion, though I would ask the member for Gladstone to please stick to the motion and not to canvass issues which have already been canvassed.

Mrs CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—Ind) (4.08 pm): Thank you, Madam Speaker. In rising to oppose the time frame that is being proposed, I am conscious that under normal circumstances one could say six weeks is adequate—maybe not generous but adequate. These are complex matters and they are heightened in their sensitivity because of previous events. I believe on the basis of that heightened sensitivity, the complex nature of the proposals and the fact that there would be a much wider range of people who would be wishing to participate in the consultation process and give valid, well-thought-out and well-articulated submissions to the committee that that time period is too short.

014 I am also cognisant of the workload—not as a member of that committee but in dealing with legislation that has come before this House that they have dealt with—and that they, too, would have some constraints on their ability to deal with this complex matter in a timely manner. Therefore, I will be opposing the motion in terms of the six-week time frame because of the complexity, sensitivity and importance of the matter before the parliament.

Madam SPEAKER: I call the Attorney-General to close the debate. I remind the Attorney-General and other members that we are debating the motion before the House and not the legislation.

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.10 pm): The motion that I moved says that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee will consider this bill and report to the House by 30 April. As the honourable Leader of the House has pointed out, 30 April is some 42 days away. We believe that six weeks is sufficient. The reason I believe that is that this issue did not spring up on us this week. We set up the Callinan-Aroney inquiry who—guess what?—called for public submissions in relation to the CMC. So we had the Callinan-Aroney inquiry and then the PCMC of this parliament also had a public inquiry in relation to issues and also made recommendations with respect to the CMC. Then we had the former Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mick Keelty, conduct an inquiry—

Ms PALASZCZUK: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, he is not speaking to the motion. He is now talking about the bill and the history of how the bill came to be.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! I simply remind the Attorney-General to stick to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you. There has been sufficient time for the community to have a say on this important matter. As I indicated, in relation to the six weeks given to the parliamentary committee—and obviously those opposite were not listening during the first reading—I said that we are encouraging people to come to the committee and have a say. We have been receiving submissions on these sorts of things for over two years. I have full confidence in the chair of the parliamentary committee, Mr Ian Berry, to be able to deal with these matters within a six-week time frame. These are important matters. People have made submissions. The feedback that we received from submissions over the past two years have formulated what we have in the House today; hence why we think six weeks. As a matter of fact, we have talked about flip-flopping from the opposition leader—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Deputy Speaker, he is not referring to the motion and I would ask him to speak to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am responding to the Leader of the Opposition—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will resume her seat. I am listening carefully to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition knows what I going to say. That is why she does not want to hear it. I refer to an article titled 'Qld Government puts off CMC changes until next year', which states—

Opposition Leader Anastacia Palaszczuk has questioned the delay.

'The Government is dragging its feet,' she said.

Then the opposition leader said—

'That came down in April—it was so urgent that they're postponing it until next year.'

I table a copy of those comments by the Leader of the Opposition.

Tabled paper: ABC online news report titled 'Qld Government puts of CMC changes until next year'. Article text contained in an email from Jodi Staunton-Smith.

So on the one hand we are dragging our feet—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting. The Attorney-General is speaking to the issue of timing and it is relevant to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you. When these issues were debated about a year ago, the opposition said that the LNP was going to trash the CMC. Then we had all of these reviews. The opposition leader then comes out and says that because we have delayed the bill we are now dragging our feet. We introduce a bill and we put a six-week time line on it.

I want to correct a factually incorrect statement made by those members opposite. They are saying that this is an urgent motion. It is not an urgent motion pursuant to the standing orders. Every bill—

Ms Palaszczuk: Then give it more time.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting. The Attorney-General has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: Most bills that go to a committee have a time frame on them for the proper order and proper administration of the House and the other bills before the House. On most occasions, that is the case. There is a time put on the consideration so that guidance is given to the committee in terms of its other matters. We have taken into consideration the other matters that the committee has before it. That is why we have chosen the six weeks—because we think that is an appropriate time.

The opposition leader, the member for Bundamba and the member for South Brisbane are saying that they are going oppose this urgency motion. Maybe they can oppose a motion on a different day of the week, because this motion that we are debating is not an urgency motion. This motion puts an extensive six-week time period on an inquiry into a bill before the House. In relation to the committee process under the Labor government, I reckon a lot of the committees that the minister and I served on would have given anything to have six weeks to consider some of the bills that we had before us.

Mr Langbroek: There was no committee system.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Up until the dying days of the former government, there was no committee system. Time after time the former government would move motions to guillotine after moving motions of urgency. This motion is not an urgency motion. This just puts a six-week time line on it.

Mr Langbroek: When they merged the CJC and the Crime Commission into the CMC, there was no committee system at that time.

Mr BLEIJIE: Absolutely. I take the interjection from the honourable education minister. When the former government merged the CJC and the Crime Commission, there was no committee system. It was just done.

Of course, we know that the member for South Brisbane all but on a daily basis quotes Fitzgerald in this House—plays scary music, the bad days before Fitzgerald. The opposition, when in government, split the CMC. That was in direct contrast to what Fitzgerald recommended. So if the member for South Brisbane is going to come in here and quote Fitzgerald I suggest that she get it out and read it again, because she is obviously misquoting Fitzgerald and does not understand Fitzgerald.

This motion provides a six-week consultation period. I was very open in my introductory speech when I introduced the bill into the House. We are calling on Queenslanders, we are calling on academics, we are calling on the commentariat to come in and have a say—tell us if we have it right, tell us if we have not, tell us what they think about it. We believe that six weeks is sufficient time for that to occur.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 68:

LNP, 66—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grimwade,

Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seenev, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Woodforth, Young.

KAP, 2—Hopper, Katter.

NOES, 12:

ALP, 8—Byrne, D'Ath, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

PUP, 2—Douglas, Judge.


INDEPENDENTS, 2—Cunningham, Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

015

~~LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Introduction~~

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.23 pm):
~~I present a bill for an act to amend the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, the Forestry Act 1959, the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Water Act 2000 for particular purposes and to amend particular subordinate legislation under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Water Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes and I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee to consider the bill.~~

Tabled papers: Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.

Tabled papers: Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

~~I am pleased to present the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. This landmark bill is the first step in addressing long-standing issues with Queensland's state land tenure system and providing greater security of tenure and certainty for our leasehold landholders. The Newman government is committed to growing a four-pillar economy. This bill will help achieve that goal by driving investment in our agriculture and tourism industries and, in turn, encouraging job creation. After decades of being ignored by Labor, rural landholders have a government that is prepared to introduce reforms that create a clearer future for these two economic pillars.~~

~~In addition to security of tenure, this suite of reforms will also reduce red tape and streamline administrative processes for those individuals and businesses that hold over 6,500 of our primary production and offshore island tourism leases. This will be achieved through four key initiatives in this bill: a more affordable rural leasehold land rent and purchase price regime; the introduction of rolling leases for particular offshore island leases and primary production leases, with the exception of those on Land Act reserves; a more streamlined approach for converting leasehold land to freehold land and removing restrictions on who can hold rural leasehold land.~~

~~This bill proposes to move the existing provisions relating to purchase price and land rent from the Land Act into a regulation. To support this, the bill omits the relevant provisions and inserts a regulation making power. The relocation of these provisions removes operational matters from the primary legislation as part of the government's reforms to modernise and streamline legislation in line with contemporary and principle based drafting practices.~~

~~In moving the detail of financial matters to the regulation, the government is presently considering changes to rural rent rates and rural freeholding purchase price methodologies. Once the government's consideration of these matters has been finalised, I will provide further information to the parliament about proposed amendments to regulation to assist it in considering the implications and effect of the land tenure reform initiatives in this bill.~~

~~This bill will amend the land rental hardship provisions in the Land Act to remove the interest payable on rents deferred after 1 July 2014. It also removes duplication with the Financial Accountability Act 2009 relating to forgiveness of rent payment provisions. In response to the current drought crisis in Queensland, with the largest area of land ever recorded as drought declared in this state, my department is preparing regulatory amendments that will allow areas or types of leases to be proclaimed as subject to hardship with automatic deferral of all rental payments. These amendments will reduce costs and red tape for struggling landholders and allows the government to quickly respond in tough times. These amendments will be in place by 1 July 2014.~~